

seized this opportunity of impressing upon that eminent person his conviction of the French intrigues. The eminent person was not deficient in that frankness -which we natter ourselves to be characteristic of our nation. . . . He took an opportunity in an early interview to communicate to the Pasha his apprehensions. ' God is great!' exclaimed his Highness, as he drew his pipe from his mouth. <It is an infamous falsehood. . . . 'It is an infamous falsehood/ repeated the eminent person to his informant on the first opportunity^ 'His Highness declares that we are the greatest nation in the world and dear to him as his own children. Depend upon it, he is devoted to us. Has he not presented me during my visit with his finest palace? Does not his European band, by his special command, play every day under my window during my dinner? Does he not always proffer me the pipe of honour ? And has he not condescended to accept from my hands the finest shawl that Cashmere ever produced ? ' The reasoning was unanswerable, and the solitary Englishman, who was rather a poet than a politician, proceeded on his pilgrimage.¹

The pamphlet received the honour of a leading article in *The Times*,² in which recognition was freely given to the cleverness and curious information of the authors; though it was also broadly hinted that the real motive which animated them was hostility to the Reform Bill. The third Reform Bill had now been launched, and as it proceeded on the perilous voyage which, eventually was to carry it into port, Disraeli's sympathy with the cause whose fortunes it carried seemed rapidly to cool. 'I am still a Reformer,' he wrote, as we have seen, in the last week of February;., but a fortnight later he pronounced the Bill to be in a most crazy state, and added that he ' would not be overwhelmed if it failed altogether. Yet he erased some passages in the *Gallomania* that were adverse to Reform, and, when Croker wanted to restore them, he entered an emphatic protest.

To John Murray.

March 30,
1832.

It is quite impossible that anything adverse to the general measure of Reform can issue from my pen or from anything

i *Gallomania*, p. 40.

² April 20, 1832.

